



The Decathalon Fossett was flying when he disappeared..

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### Personal

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Life shrinks or expands in proportion to its challenges.

**"Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whither so ever thou goest."** - *Joshua 1:9*

Steve Fossett's wealth made his risky epics and adventures possible. **Outback Patrol** events are neither wealth or adventure based but people-based, and risky too. They are intentionally soul-winning and God based and they face similar dangers as Fossett.

Ironically, Fossett's round the world solo balloon flight returned to earth near Windorah in the remote outback, but a Nevada desert (without his usual back up support) would not let him escape.

Experts described Fossett as a careful pilot who meticulously prepared his earth and space exploits. But we all know that risk-taking is part of the equation.

Our pilots know of risks too. Steve lost electrics at midnight; Sean spent a night in the desert due slack alternator belt; Les has landed on flat tires; Garry at night with no panel lights; another fought off a distraught passenger grabbing the controls in panic; Bill was stranded for days waiting for clear weather; Lawrence's wheels were pushed out of a muddy spot; several lost landed on roads for directions; Jim fought violent storms around massive cloud buildups; Les & Richie were downed due electrical and storm interference. **But not one with engine failure.**

So, all struggle with courage. Yet, courage is not the absence of fear or resistance to or mastery of it, but is simply the willingness to be afraid and act anyway. And even in the dodgy times, there's the strong assurance and calm comfort that comes with God's presence with His people.

Yet this all means that we need much more help than any of us have available in our pockets.

In forty years outback we are all deeply thankful that we have not had one major incident, - and nothing is lost.

But, to be careless invites disaster, and we just can't do it. Backed by prayer, one reason for survival is the exacting preparation of our pilots. They retrain; they undergo check rides; they require expert mechanical checks; and they respect the changing weather, and they study for higher skills. When you invest in them, that's where some of your support goes, - to ensure a safe and worthy result.

Do we dare cut costs? Reduce ministry? Stop events? Join those who dedicate a little more each month to help catch up the '08 fund shortfall, - so we can expand with our new teams ...

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, I come to you with all my fears making myself available for you to use as a witness for Jesus Christ. Please use me to be 'as-Christ' in some way to someone in need today, and give me the courage to share my Christian faith in a gracious way. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' Name, Amen."

In His Sovereign Grace,

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The prayer and support of the Lord's people encourages us to continue serving families in the Australian outback.  
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- \* Funds are often invested in advance to ensure teams will be enabled to fly outback.
- \* Patrols and Explorers Magazines are out now - July and August are well into preparation. Support them
  - \* Explorers Magazine is read by thousands of families outback every month..
  - \* Training workers is vital. Help us keep it up.
- \* Please include these matters with your local prayer fellowship. That'll make all the difference. Jer. 33:3

**We may take the extra time and effort to do what needs to be done now, instead of missing the opportunity, - and losing people for Christ.**